GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2177
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
MALNUTRITION AND UNDERWEIGHT AMONG CHILDREN UPTO THREE YEARS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of underweight children upto three years, State-wise, rural/urban area-wise and male-female-children-wise;

(b) the rank of India among underweight children upto the age of three years in the world;

(c) the details of the scheme of the Government to solve the problem of underweight among children upto three years;

(d) the details of the amount released and the targets fixed and achievements made under this scheme during the above period, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the incidents of child mortality due to malnutrition during the above period, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-III (2005-06), conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State-wise details of underweight children of age group under three years is placed at Annexure-I. In India 31.1% children under 3 years of age are underweight in urban areas, while 43.7% children of same age group are underweight in rural areas. However, the data related to male and female children under 3 years of age is not available.

However, as per NFHS-III the sex-wise information of underweight children from 6 months to 59 months, reveals that 41.9% male and 43.1% female children of the said age group are underweight.

(b) No data is available for underweight children upto the age of 3 years at global level. It is therefore not possible to ascertain the rank of India in this category vis- Ã -vis other countries.

(c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of the Ministry of Women & Child Development is one of the key programmes being implemented to improve the nutritional status of children. The ICDS is an inter-sectoral programme, benefiting the children in the age group of 0-6 years.

(d) The details of the amount released under ICDS Scheme (General) during the year 2004-05 to 2007-08 (upto 7.8.2007) is placed at Annexure-II. The State-wise number of Anganwadi Kendras targeted for operationalization and operationalized in the country during the last three years are placed at Annexure-III.

(e) The details of number of child deaths due to malnutrition are not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, malnutrition is not a direct cause of death although it can increase the susceptibility to morbidity and mortality by reducing body's resistance to infections. As per the Registrar General of India Survey, the Child Mortality Rate (CMR) in the year 2005 (age 0-4 years) is 17.3 per thousand population of the corresponding age group.